

### The Mango Tree.

The following is from the Fort Myers Press:

It was in 1781 that the British frigate Flora, one of Admiral Rodney's squadron, cruising about the West Indies chased and captured a French ship bound from Mauritius to Haiti. On board the prize were found many plants and seeds of economic value, which the French government was introducing from its East to its West Indian colonies. Among these were a number of young mango trees, all numbered. The ship was sent as a prize to Jamaica, and the collection of plants was placed in a garden at Gordon Town, afterward used as a government botanic garden. But the numbers got mixed or lost, and only one mango tree retained its label, and that was No. 11, which to this day is its only name. As it happens, too, it is the best and most famous variety. Just as the rabbit takes to Australia, finding there no enemies, but most congenial conditions, multiplied and increased enormously, so the mango, requiring constant cultivation to produce prolific crops of sweet fruit in its native home, found everything so suitable in Jamaica that it flourished there without care. Today it is the most common and hardiest tree of the plains, and in some districts grows and bears fruit up to an elevation of 2,000 feet. It has sprung up wherever a seed has been flung, on any kind of soil, and refused to be checked by damp, drought, weeds or shade. Indeed, no tree in Jamaica can keep so splendidly green, or blossom its fruit so profusely, under the driest conditions of soil and atmosphere.

### The Farmer's Horse.

The Arabs were the first to appreciate a horse's intelligence, and to treat him accordingly. They kept the history of their horses written on tablets of ivory, and traced their parentage back to the time of the Pharaohs. They were extremely careful of their horses' comfort, and they were treated even better than their wives and children.

The Arabian horse learned to understand the meaning of words by constant companionship with man; they were brave, obedient and fearless through constant kindness; the horse always felt safe in the master's presence. "Jim Key," the best-educated horse living, whose knowledge is almost human, was a descendant from Arabian parentage, as are all of our most intelligent specimens of horses we have today. To know beautiful Jim Key one can not but feel there is an intelligence in horses that we have never understood or appreciated.

Intelligence in horses varies, just as it does in people; a horse sometimes seems stupid because we fail to understand it. How many farmers watch their horse to know what its movements mean?

To a great degree the horse expresses its feelings by the ears; the ears are pointed forward in watchfulness if the horse is surprised or frightened; if the horse is uncertain he listens to every sound, the ears turning forward and backward. If angry the ears flatten back against the neck; if discouraged the ears droop down and out.

Watch a horse as you drive him over an unfamiliar road, and he is interested in all the sights and sounds,

his ears are constantly on the move, alert and active.

Drive him over the same road every day; it becomes monotonous and there is nothing that interests him; he will look discouraged and his ears will droop and flap dejectedly.

If we understood the ear language we could prevent many accidents; as a rule, a few soothing words will reassure him when he is startled; the voice of the driver has a great effect on the horse; if the voice expresses fear it will cause fear in the horse.

Kind treatment, regular food and water will make a horse more valuable.

Our barns should be provided with box stalls, inclosed on all sides, so the horse does not have to be tied; with his head left free he can choose his position and rest better; all sides and ends of the stall should be high enough so the horse can not get his feet over them.

A horse does not like a dark, gloomy place any better than we do; a gloomy stable is injurious to the eyes; a stable should be well lighted and should be kept clean and dry. Give the horse pure air and dry stable and prevent disease.

A damp, cold barn will give a horse rheumatism, neuralgia and pneumonia, just as it would us; and he should be provided with a good bed so he will not feel the cold from the floor.

No two people are alike in their tastes, looks or desires, and no two horses are exactly alike.

We always have plenty of salt on the farm, but often through neglect the horse does not get his share; he enjoys it, the same as we enjoy jelly or pickles with our food, and it is necessary for him to have the salt to keep his stomach in good condition.

We should study the horse. Is our horse nervous, timid, quick tempered or sulky?

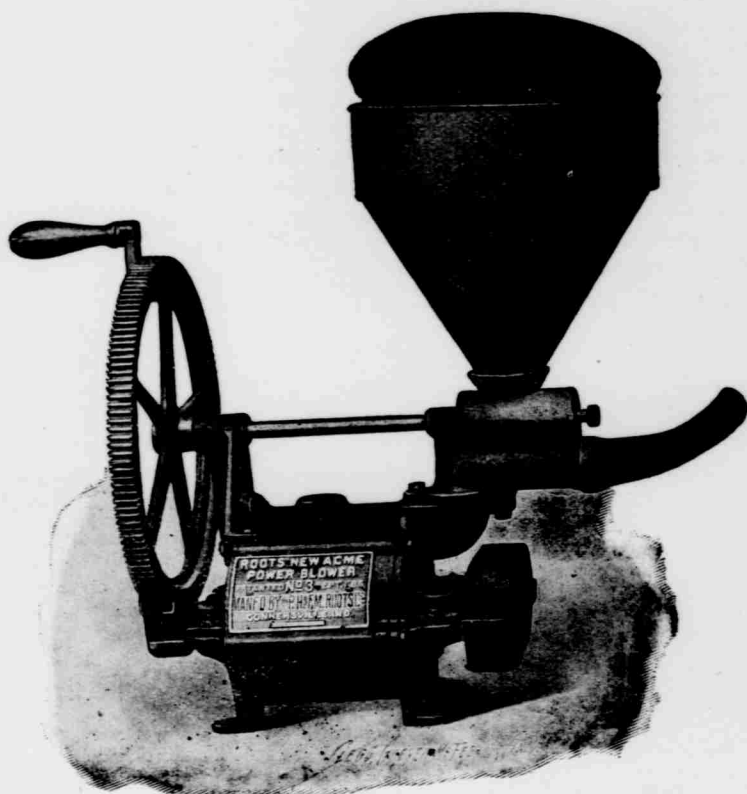
Let us talk to him as we would to any other member of the farm, and he will soon understand many words and be sensitive to our praise or blame. He will learn readily, and there are many little ways we can use in teaching him; he soon learns to stand and wait without tying; this requires sugar and regularity; when you return to your horse after tying him take him a lump of sugar; he will soon learn to wait for the sugar, and wherever you leave him he will remain until you return; you will not need to tie him.

If the horse objects to taking the bit in his mouth, dampen it and sprinkle sugar over it; as he takes it in his mouth he will taste the sugar, and will reach for the bit when he sees it. It is cruel to put a cold bit in the horse's mouth; it makes the teeth ache, and can we blame him if he objects to taking the bit after he has had the unpleasant experience with the cold bit? A nervous horse is sometimes ruined by an irritating bit; a large leather bit will accomplish wonders with a nervous horse, and he will drive finely.

The blinders should not set close to the eyes, and they should not flap against the eyes.

The horse has reasoning powers, and he does not become so frightened if he sees the whole of an object instead of a part of it. A horse wants to see what we are doing, and it seems almost cruel to use blinders. It is the

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thing we do not understand that frightens us, and so it is with our companion, the horse. Often a horse in the habit of "shying" will stop it entirely by the removal of blinders; he can then see the object he fears. If the horse shows fear of anything, no matter what it is, let him stand and look at it until he is sure it will not hurt him. Soothingly talk to him all the time, and do not hurry him; let him have time to become acquainted with the object, that it will not hurt him, and soon it will cease to interest him. Do not strike him when he is examining an object of fear; if you do he connects the pain with the object, and becomes doubly scared.

A horse is willing to mind if we can make him understand what we wish him to do; so many of us will not tell him what we want him to do, but we jerk on the sensitive mouth or ply the whip; if we want our horse to act intelligently we must act intelligently; we enjoy serving those we love, so does the horse. Very soon the horse adapts himself to the driver; when the women drive he starts off at a little jog trot and appears as the most sedate of horses; if the gay young man of the family drives the horse arches his neck; tosses his head and puts on all the fashionable colt airs. The farm horse learns the different members of the family and becomes very cunning and clever.

Let us consider the horse an intelligent member of the farm home, and treat him with kindness and consideration.—American Farmer.

### A Woman's Health

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